

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203315

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PK, US

SUBJECT: ASSURANCES WITH REGARD TO DURAND LINE

REF: ISLAMABAD 6910

1. DURING UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH GENERAL ZIA ON JULY 16, ZIA STATED THAT PAKISTAN NEEDED FIRM USG SUPPORT WITH UNMISTAKABLE GUARANTEES OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY THAT WOULD BE CREDIBLE AS A DETERRENT AGAINST AFGHAN ENCROACHMENTS. NEWSOM TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER.

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2. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH ZIA AND ADVISE HIM OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE US POSITION WITH RESPECT TO PAKISTAN'S BORDER WITH AFGHANISTAN REMAINS UNCHANGED FROM THAT SET FORTH IN THE SEATO COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE OF MARCH 8, 1956. THE RELEVANT PORTION OF THAT COMMUNIQUE READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE INsofar

AS THESE (SOVIET) STATEMENTS REFERRED TO 'PAKHTOONISTAN', THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SEVERALLY DECLARED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZED THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF PAKISTAN EXTENDS UP TO THE DURAND LINE, THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN... END QUOTE.

B. AS HAS BEEN STATED PUBLICLY ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS OUR SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN REMAINS AN ENDURING PRINCIPLE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

C. WE, OF COURSE, ALSO CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT ANY DISPUTES WILL BE SOLVED THROUGH DIRECT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN.

3. IT IS ASSUMED THAT ZIA WILL WISH TO MAKE THIS RE-AFFIRMATION OF OUR POSITION KNOWN PUBLICLY. YOU MAY INFORM HIM, IF ASKED, THAT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HIS DOING SO.

4. FOR MOSCOW AND KABUL - WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO ADVISE THE SOVIET UNION OR THE DRA OF OUR REASSURANCES TO ZIA. WE RECOGNIZE OF COURSE THAT THE DRA MAY CHOOSE TO INTERPRET THESE REASSURANCES AS BEING UN-FRIENDLY AND PROVOCATIVE. IF SUBJECT COMES UP YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT OUR ASSURANCES TO ZIA MERELY REAFFIRM OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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LONG STANDING POSITION REGARDING THE PAK-AFGHAN BORDER AND THAT OUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PAKISTAN'S INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY WAS IMPLICIT IN OUR RECOGNITION OF PAKISTAN IN 1947. THE US HAS NO DESIRE TO BECOME EMBROILED IN ANY LEGAL DISPUTES OVER THE VALIDITY OF THE PAK-AFGHAN BORDER AND WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT ANY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITH RESPECT TO THAT BORDER WILL BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY BY DIRECT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN. VANCE

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